

offered by Ms. Miranda's administrators and colleagues who describe her as an asset and a blessing to Clovis Municipal Schools and to those whom she works with. In addition to being an experienced bilingual educator, Ms. Miranda also engages students by helping to organize the Mesa Science Fair and Spanish Spelling Bee. Her dedication and passion is the foundation for the academic and personal growth of her students both when she is their teacher and long after.

Ms. Miranda is a shining example of the passion and dedication that define our great state, and we are proud that she calls New Mexico home. I offer my congratulations to Ms. Miranda and thank her from the bottom of my heart for her contributions to the future of New Mexico—our youth.

#### REMEMBERING WALTER IGNATIUS WILLARD

#### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Walter Ignatius Willard.

Walter was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 14, 1957, the fifth child of twelve born to the late Elliot "Doc" Willard Sr. and Mary Jane Jordan Willard. He passed away peacefully on February 11, 2022, at the age of 64, after a well-fought battle with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by the love of his life, Valerie "Missy" Sims; their three daughters, Jordan, Jillian, and Jenna; his eleven siblings; and many nephews, nieces, and friends.

A proud Purple Knight, Walter attended St. Augustine High School, and prior to graduating in 1975, played trumpet for St. Aug's renowned Marching 100. He not only was the trumpet section leader, but also was the first musician selected to play the band's newly introduced herald trumpet. He then earned a B.A. in political science in 1979 at Tulane University, where his ceaseless love of music led him to join the university's marching band. Walter then ventured to Washington, D.C., where he obtained his J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law in 1982. While in the nation's capital, Walter worked in the Capitol Hill offices of Louisiana Congressman Gillis Long, Senator Russell Long, and Senator J. Bennett Johnston.

Walter returned to New Orleans to start his law career, eventually earning a Master of Law degree in energy and environment from Tulane Law School in 1993. Over the course of his 30-year legal career, he was admitted to the bar for the states of Louisiana, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and served as judge pro tempore for the Orleans Civil District Court. As Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." A passionate advocate for justice, Walter spent his career leveraging his judgment and compassion in the pursuit of Dr. King's vision for authentic peace. One of his greatest endeavors in this regard was acting as one of the plaintiffs in the historic Supreme Court redistricting case *Chisom v. Edwards*, which set the stage for Louisiana's first African American Supreme Court justice.

Walter's remarkable life was characterized by unconditional love and support for family and friends, zealous engagement with community programs and initiatives to improve life for others, and an ardent devotion to God. A life-long parishioner at St. Raymond Catholic Church, he was an altar boy in his youth and became a member of the church's choir as an adult. Selflessly committed to the betterment of his community, Walter's civic involvements included acting as a voluntary attorney in child neglect cases for the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court CASA program, participating on the mayor's Environmental Affairs Advisory Committee as well as the Task Force on City-Owned Cemeteries, and serving as a member and chair of the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission. Additionally, Walter was a 30-year member of the Sugar Bowl Committee and a nine-year board member of both the Young Leadership Council and Young Audiences of Louisiana organization.

A veritable Renaissance Man, one could easily find Walter in a courtroom arguing a case, at Tipitina's jamming out to the Soul Rebels, at the Riverbend coaching his daughters' soccer teams, at the Loyola gym picking up a game of basketball, in the kitchen making omelets, in the yard planting a garden, restoring an old car, or playing with the family's menagerie of pets. He was a wonder to all who knew and loved him, and he will be remembered fondly for his joyful spirit and relentless optimism, which served him well until God called him home. The loss and death of Walter bears witness to the divine and mysterious power of redemptive suffering. Through his heroic battle, Walter has helped shower numerous heavenly graces and blessings upon all of those he loved so deeply, and we are eternally grateful.

#### HONORING MICHAEL MEDART

#### HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend, Michael "Mike" Medart, of Medart Engine & Marine, on the conclusion of his tenure as Chairman of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW), an association comprised of the distributors who keep America moving.

During Mike's leadership, NAW fought for and defended pro-business policies that boost our local economies. NAW, with its partners, also donated more than \$1 million in PPE and other supplies to help reopen America. NAW saw rapid growth in the industry and the association itself and was crucial in reopening America at a critical time.

The name Medart is familiar to Missourians in my district and our region, having been a mainstay in the community for more than 100 years. Mike is at the helm of a third generation of leadership, an incredible legacy of which he should be proud. The family-owned company prioritizes a "Golden Rule Service" commitment to their customers and employs more than a hundred workers, with many having been with the company for decades.

I congratulate Mike and thank him for his leadership nationally and at home in Missouri!

HONORING WGY NEWS RADIO ON THEIR ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate WGY News Radio on celebrating 100 years of informing and entertaining New Yorkers.

WGY was first established when General Electric received their Broadcasting License and was randomly assigned the now acclaimed letters WGY on February 4, 1922. WGY's first broadcast took place on February 20, 1922, 7:47 p.m. in Schenectady, New York. WGY employees were pioneers in the new wireless radio technology sector, which is evident in the station's incredible accomplishments. WGY was the first radio station in New York State and, in 1926, it became the first NBC affiliate station. Since then, the station has established itself as one of the premier sources of news and entertainment for the North Country while also providing a space for major historical moments.

While he was governor of New York, Franklin D. Roosevelt began broadcasting his now famous fireside chats on WGY. In 1923, WGY became the first radio station to solve a major criminal case, when Verner Alexanderson was returned home after being kidnapped due to the on-air efforts to make the public aware of his disappearance. WGY was the home of The Rush Limbaugh Show before its conclusion in 2021 and continues to broadcast many talk show programs, fulfilling its mission to enrich and connect New Yorkers.

WGY prides itself on being an exceptional source of public service and engagement, as evidenced by its numerous awards and achievements. In 2009, WGY won the Radio Television Digital News Association Edward R. Murrow Award for its exceptional reporting on the Capital Region ice storm. During the 2021 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting, WGY won awards in categories including Outstanding Public Service Announcement and Campaign, Outstanding Interview, and Outstanding Use of Digital Platforms.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I congratulate WGY News Radio for 100 years of exemplary service to the people of New York State, including North Country families. The station's active engagement with the community and public service continues to inspire, connect, and enrich the lives of New Yorkers.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAM COHEN ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 18, 2022*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sam Cohen on the occasion of his 60th birthday for his distinguished service over the years. Sam serves as the Legal and Government Affairs Officer of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians located in my district, where he has supported the Tribe's leadership and members for more than